

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01886 220954Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 /014 W
----- 090601 /11
R 220630Z DEC 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1886

FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ALLOW ASSP
SUBJECT: POST DIFFERENTIAL FOR BAGHDAD

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1774, (B) BAGHDAD 1730

1. DECEMBER 14 BOMBING AT BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING POST DIFFERENTIAL FOR IRAQ. BLAST TOOK PLACE IN CUSTOMS AREA KILLING AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE, CRITICALLY INJURING TEN MORE, AND INJURING OVER 200 PEOPLE. WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT NO USINT STAFF MEMBERS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS, WHO ARE ARRIVING FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, WERE IN AREA AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF FOREIGN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING BRITISH, GREEKS, WEST GERMANS, JAPANESE, LEBANESE, AND SAUDIS WERE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. ONE OF THOSE KILLED WAS THE SON OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN CONSUL AT BASRA.

2. AIRPORT IS USED CONSTANTLY BY USINT STAFF. IT IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE MEANS OF TRAVELING TO AND FROM IRAQ, AND WE RECEIVE AND SEND ALMOST ALL OF OUR POUCHES THROUGH AIRPORT.

3. BOMBING WAS PROBABLY A RESULT OF BITTER STRUGGLE BETWEEN SYRIAN AND IRAQI REGIMES. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS CONFLICT WILL INCREASINGLY INVOLVE TERRORISM IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

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4. ADDITIONAL FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN BAGHDAD. BOEING CONTRACT HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED AND PRESENT CONTRACT WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 1977. IT IS POSSIBLE CONTRACT WILL STILL BE EXTENDED, BUT, IF SO, PRESENT PLANS CALL

FOR A REDUCTION OF AT LEAST 50 PERCENT IN BOEING
STAFF. SECOND LARGEST GROUP OF AMERICANS IN IRAQ
ARE WITH BANNISTER-PRICE, AND THEIR STAFF IS BEING
SHARPLY REDUCED WITH COMPLETION OF PIPELINE TO TURKEY.
WILEY

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NNN

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